

REMARKS

Claims 10-14, 17-30 are now in this application.

Claims 10 and 15 have been combined as amended claim 10 since the rejection of claim 15 as unpatentable over Blaser in view of Cope was not a valid rejection.

In view of claims 10 and 15 having been combined, claims 15 and 16 have been canceled and claims 17, 18, 22, and 26 have been amended accordingly.

New claim 30 has been added. By the use of the term "consisting of" this new claim 30 requires that the valve can have only a holder body and a valve diaphragm. The Blaser reference does not meet claim 10 because it requires three components: a holder body, a valve diaphragm, and a clamping part. Likewise the additional prior art cited by the examiner does not include any teachings which could in any way be combined with Blaser to obtain the structure as specifically limited by claim 30.

Newly amended claim 10 requires the valve diaphragm(22) to have two straight edges (24,25) which are opposite one another. As correctly stated by the examiner in his rejection, the Blaser reference lacks these straight edges. Applicants disagree with the examiner's use of the Cope reference to overcome the shortcomings of the Blaser reference.

Cope deals with pressurized containers and a valve for adding pressure, rather than reducing pressure as claimed. Therefor the Cope reference is not an analogous piece of prior art.

And further, since the tape 23 of Cope is not positioned within a holder body, the teaching of a rectangular tape by Cope is not a teaching that is applicable to the valve diaphragm of the present invention.

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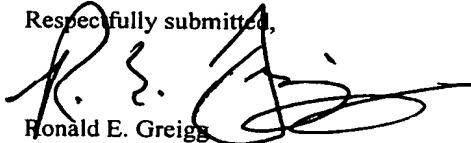
With regard to the rejection of claims 11, 12, 14 and 20, since the valve of Domke is placed on the outside of the package rather than on the inside as is applicants', it is argued that Domke is non-analogous.

Additionally, claims 13 and 14 both recite that the valve diaphragm is joined to the holder body. The fact that the valve diaphragm is joined to the holder body allows the present invention to be simpler than the references. By means of the diaphragm being joined to the holder body, a separate member such as Blaser's separate member 30 and its pressing jaws 31 and 32 can be eliminated. In an art such as the present valve, eliminating structure and still retaining the functionality is an important improvement which cannot properly be said to be obvious.

With regard to the rejection of claims 17 and 18, since these claims require that the valve diaphragm has two semicircular edges and two straight edges, they recite a shape for the valve diaphragm which none of the cited art in any way shows or suggests.

For the above reasons, entry of the amendment and allowance of the claims are courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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